

Amendments to the Specification

On pages 1 and 50, please replace the Title with the following amended Title:

Transvaginal Suturing System Instruments and Methods of Use

On page 1, please replace the first full paragraph with the following amended paragraph:

This patent application is a continuation of U.S. patent application serial no. 09/860,344, filed May 18, 2001, which is a continuation of U.S. patent application serial no. 09/409,332, filed September 30, 1999, which is a continuation of U.S. patent application serial no. 09/058,530, filed April 10, 1998, now U.S. Patent No. 6,048,351, which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application [[S]]serial [[N]]no. 09/002,875, filed January 5, 1998, now abandoned, by inventors Norman S. Gordon, Robert P. Cooper and Richard L. Quick, and entitled “Needle Guidance System for Endoscopic Suture Device”; which is a continuation of U.S. patent application [[S]]serial [[N]]no. 08/554,743 filed November 7, 1995, now U.S. Patent No. 5,713,910, by inventors Norman S. Gordon, Robert P. Cooper and Richard L. Quick, and which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application [[S]]serial [[N]]no. 08/311/967, filed September 26, 1994, now U.S. Patent No. 5,578,044, by inventors Norman S. Gordon and Robert P. Cooper, and entitled “Endoscopic Suture System”; which is continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application [[S]]serial [[N]]no. 08/205,042, filed March 2, 1994, now U.S. Patent No. 5,540,704, by inventors Norman S. Gordon, Robert P. Cooper and Gordon C. Gunn, and entitled “Endoscopic Suture System”; which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application [[S]]serial [[N]]no. 08/057,699, filed May 4, 1993, now U.S. Patent No. 5,458,609, by inventors Norman S. Gordon, Robert P. Cooper and Richard L. Quick, and entitled “Endoscopic Suture System”; which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. patent application [[S]]serial [[N]]no. 07/941,382, filed September 4, 1992, now U.S. Patent No. 5,364,408 by inventor Norman S. Gordon, and entitled “Endoscopic Suture System”. The entirety of each of the above referenced patent applications is hereby incorporated

On page 50, please replace the Abstract with the following amended Abstract:

~~A method and device for the placement of sutures and for the purpose of approximating tissue. The invention relates to devices and methods for approximation, ligation, and fixation of tissue. The devices and methods use using a suture, to various constituent parts comprising said devices, and particularly to the placement of sutures into certain difficult to access ligamental structures, to the approximation of tissue separated by means of an endosurgical trocar being inserted into a body cavity, and to approximation, ligation, and fixation of body tissue using both traditional open surgical and endosurgical techniques and instrument. The invention provides endosurgical techniques and instruments. The invention provides for the loading of suture material including needles into the device, introduction and placement of the device into the body cavity, with the distal end having deployable needle guides, individually to the periphery of the wound, engaging the wound with the needle guides, driving the needles and suture material in the margin of tissue. The suture may then be tied to approximate the wound and excess suture material cut off. The invention also provides for the placement of sutures for the endoscopic approximation, fixation, and ligation of tissues within a body cavity including the driving and retrieval of needle and suture combinations, and facilitating the tying of knots.~~